CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES
THE NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS CHAIR
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

ΜΑΝΤΑΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ

ΕΔΡΑ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΑΖΑΝΤΖΑΚΗ

A Gift from the Barbara James Trust

The Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair at San Francisco State University, has received a substantial gift of some $197, 000 from the Barbara James Trust, which was given "for advancing the learning of the Greek language."

An alumna, Barbara Mevious James was raised in Palo Alto, California and graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1945. She spent the majority of her career working as a probation officer for the county of San Mateo and specialized in juvenile support services.

She was a single mother and attended SFSU at night and eventually earned both her Bachelors and Masters degrees from San Francisco State. While she was taking classes at SFSU, Ms. James decided to explore an interest in her own Greek heritage by taking a Greek language class. Her experience sparked a passion in Greece, which lasted the rest of her life. After visiting Greece, Ms. James realized she had discovered her true spiritual home and, at one point, even considered moving there. Though moving permanently to Greece never became a reality in her lifetime, she ultimately decided to make it her permanent resting place. Her ashes were scattered throughout Greece: at the Temple of Athena, the Acropolis, the olive groves of Delphi and in Crete.

One of Ms. James' other passions was creating beautiful stained glass art. Many of her creations were inspired by her love for Greek culture and motifs.

Ms. James was always very proud of her education from SFSU and felt a strong connection with the university and her experience with the Modern Greek Studies Program.

The faculty, staff and students of the Modern Greek Studies Program are deeply grateful to Ms. James for this extraordinary gift and only learned of her intentions after she passed away.

Michael Dukakis, Former Governor, Delivers the 4th Nicholas C. Petris Lecture at SFSU

Former Massachusetts governor and 1988 Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis discussed "Health Care: The Uninsured -- 45 Million ... and Counting" for the Nicholas C. Petris Lecture on February 24, 2006.

Since June 1991, Governor Dukakis has been a Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University and visiting professor at the School of Public Policy & Social Research at UCLA. His research has focused on national health care policy reform and the lessons that national policy makers can learn from state reform efforts, the subject of his lecture.

Governor Dukakis was born in Brookline, Massachusetts on November 3, 1933. His parents, Panos and Euterpe (Boukis) Dukakis both emigrated from Greece to the mill cities of Lowell and Haverhill, Massachusetts before marrying and settling down in the town of Brookline, just outside Boston. Governor Dukakis graduated from Brookline High School (1951), Swarthmore College (1955), and Harvard Law School (1960). He served for two years in the United States Army, sixteen months of which he spent with the support group of the United Nations delegation to the Military Armistice Commission in Munsan, Korea.

After serving in the Massachusetts legislature for four terms, he was elected Governor and held that office from 1974-1978 and 1982-1988.

Governor Dukakis won the Democratic nomination for the presidency of the United States in 1988 but was defeated by George Bush.

After leaving office in January 1991, Governor Dukakis and his wife, Kitty, spent three months at the University of Hawaii where Dukakis was a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science and the School of Public Health. While at the University of Hawaii, he taught courses in political leadership and health policy and led a series of public fora on the reform of the nation's health care system. There has been increasing public interest in Hawaii's first-in-the-nation universal health insurance system and the lessons that can be learned from it as the nation debates the future of health care in America.

Sponsored by the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center for Modern Greek Studies, SFSU, the lecture series is named after the MGSF's first President, Nicholas C. Petris, former California State Senator.

Prof. Martha Klironomos, Patricia Aleck, Kitty Dukakis, Gov. Michael Dukakis, Consul General Xenia Stefanidou, and the late Louis Papan, former California State Assemblyman

LECTURES AT THE CMGS 2006-2009

Thomas Doulis, Emeritus Professor of English, Portland State University, "From the Greco-Greek Wars to Reconciliation," February 17, 2006

Dr. Lidia Santarelli, former Hannah Seegar Postdoctoral Fellow, Hellenic Studies Program, Princeton University, "The Italian Occupation and Its Legacy in Wartime Greece. 1940-43," March 21, 2006

Aliki Barnstone, Professor of English, University of Las Vegas, a reading of her translations of the poetry of C.P. Cavafy, February 7, 2007

This event was co-sponsored by the Poetry Center at SFSU.

Dr. Lidia Santarelli

Prof. Aliki Barnstone

Theodore Couloumbis, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Athens, Greece, "Greek-Turkish Relations," March 1, 2007

André Gerolymatos, Professor of History and Director of the Hellenic Studies Program, Simon Fraser University, "The Civil War Within: British Intelligence and the Greek Left," May 10, 2007

Demosthenes Agrafiotis, a poetry reading, October 11, 2007

This event was co-sponsored by the Poetry Center, SFSU

Dr. Susanna Hoffman

From Dr. Zvika Serper's production, "Agamemnon"

Diane Touliatos, Professor of Music, University of Missouri -St. Louis, "The Earliest Women in Music," November 8, 2007

Dr. Tom Davis, Director, Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, "Current Archaeology in Cyprus," November 12, 2007, Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, Oakland, CA

This event was co-sponsored by the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, the Consulate of Cyprus, and the Cypriots of Northern California

Dr. Susan Heuck Allen, Visiting Scholar, Department of Classics, Brown University, "Finding the Walls of Troy: Frank Calvert and Heinrich Schliemann at Hisarlik," March 6, 2008

This event was co-sponsored by the Department of Classics at SFSU.

Andromache Karanika, Assistant Professor of Classics, UC Irvine, "Witches and Wonders: Magical Realism in Modern Greek Literature," March 13, 2008

Dr. Susanna Hoffman, "The Peopling and the Feasting of Greece: From Neanderthal Man to Modern Times," April 10, 2008

Prof. Theodore Couloumbis

Dr. Susan Heuck Allen

Dr. Zvika Serper, Professor of Theater Studies, Tel Aviv University, presented a screening of his production of "Agamemnon" followed by a discussion, October 1, 2008

This event was co-sponsored by the Departments of Theater, Classics, and Jewish Studies at SFSU.

Xenia Stefanidou, Consul General of Greece, "U.S.-Greek Relations," March 5, 2009

For more information on these talks, please check our website: www.sfsu.edu/~modgreek

Distinguished Speakers at the CMGS
Sponsored by the University Seminars Programs, Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation U.S.A.* 2006-2009

Consul General Xenia Stefanidou, Dr. Theodore Pangalos, Prof. Martha Klironomos

Dr. Theodore Pangalos, Former Greek Minister of External Affairs and Former Greek Minister of Culture

"Cyprus and U.S. - Greek Relations"

March 13, 2006

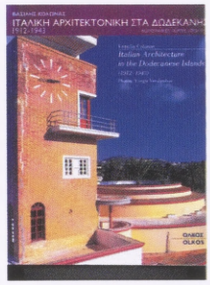
Vassilis Colonnas, Professor of Architecture, University of Thessaly

"Thessaloniki Before and After the Fire of 1917"

"Urban Space in Cavafy's Poetry"

"Greek Architects in the Ottoman Empire. The Case of Constantinople (19th-20th Centuries)"

April 25-27, 2006



Prof. Antonis Kotidis

Antonis Kotidis, Professor of Art History, Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki

"A Survey of the Art of the 19th Century in Greece (1840-1900)"

"A Survey of the Art of the 20th Century in Greece: From Modernism to Post Modernism"

"Greek Art and National Identity: Issues of a Regional Reception of Modernism in the Interwar Period"

May 2, 4, and 5, 2007

Platon Mavromoustakos, Professor of Theatre Studies, University of Athens

"*Skene* vs. *Scena*: Ancient Drama and Theatrical Space"

"Who Are We to Ridicule These Men? Heritage and Innovation in Performing Ancient Drama in Modern Greece."

"The Art Theater of Karolos Koun and Modern Greek Theater Practice"

February 18, 20, and 21, 2008

Prof. Theodore Pelagidis

Theodore Pelagidis, Professor of Economics, University of Piraeus

"Comparing Administrative and Financial Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions in Seven EU Countries" and "Expensive Living Under the Euro (with a Focus on Greece)"

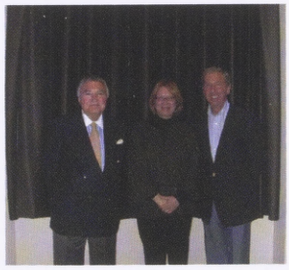
April 21, 2008

Professor Yannis Phillis, Technical University of Crete, a specialist in Environmental Studies

"Biodiversity: The Park for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna in Crete."
"Changing Climate: The Greek Experience"

October 14th - 16th, 2008

Prof. Yannis Phillis



Dr. Sotiris Mousouris, Prof. Martha Klironomos, and Gus Feissel

Dr. Sotiris Mousouris, Former Assistant Secretary General to the UN

"Balkan Transformations: The View of the UN from Athens"

March 9, 2009

*The Center for Modern Greek Studies thanks Ambassador Loucas Tsilas and Dr. Maria Sereti for their sponsorship of these lectures.

Recent Authors at the Center for Modern Greek Studies

Anne Carson, Professor of Classics, New York University
MacArthur Award Winner

May 15, 2006

Reading from *Cassandra Float Can**

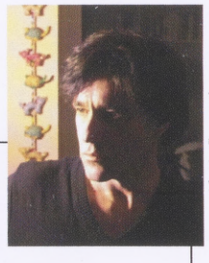
Sometimes I feel I spend my whole life rewriting the same page. It is a page with *Essay On Translation* at the top and then quite a few paragraphs of good strong prose. These begin to break down towards the middle of the page. Syntax decays. Perforations appear. By the end there is not much left but a few flakes of language roaming near the margins, looking as if they want to become an art of pure shape. Here is another fact about me. Whenever I am engaged on a translation project I experience continually, offside my vision, a sensation of veils flying up. *As brightness blows the rising wide cold rush the skull.* I've come to call the sensation Cassandra because I first noticed it one day in school when I was reading a passage of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* – the passage where Cassandra cries out OTOTOTOI POPOI DA! etc. This cry is famous - it leads into 300 lines of vision and prophecy in which Cassandra tells the past and future of the house of Atreus, including the fact of her own death. At the midpoint of this telling she utters these lines:

Behold no longer my oracle
out from veils
shall be glancing like a
newly married bride but
as brightness blows the
rising sun
open it will rush my oceans
forward onto light – a
grief more deep than me.
(1178-83)

What is it like to be a prophet? Everywhere Cassandra ran she found she was already there. Everywhere Cassandra ran the glue was coming up off the edge of the page and, when she pulled at it, this page was underneath, this page on which I am telling you that everywhere Cassandra ran she found she could float.

Anne Carson

For more information on these authors and their works, please visit our website:
www.sfsu.edu/~modgreek



Alexis Stamatis

Alexis Stamatis
October 23, 2008

Reading from *American Fugue* (2008)

"Memories. From the moment he'd set foot on this continent, memories had started to play a fugue of their own in his heart. He knew, better than anybody, that memory is our own exclusive, personal literature. We can rewrite the book, denounce the first draft's lack of maturity, never publish it. But above all, we can start writing a new one. And in his own book, the net of the chapters had gradually started stretching, and the words, the sentences, the paragraphs were now slipping through, dropping one by one into the pit of an old narrative. His literature did not have readers any more, and the only one left had gotten bored. He had grown bored going over the same pages, the same scenes again and again. He had grown tired of remembering.

Memory is what is left when something has happened but has not yet come to a conclusion. But he felt that his own "something" was, at this point, getting closer and closer to the end. He was returning to himself." (2008:298)

Translated by Diane Thiel and Constantine Hadjilambrinos, winners of first NEA International Translation Award, 2008.

Tryfon Tolides

November 10, 2006

Reading from *An Almost Pure Empty Walking (2006)**

IMMIGRANT

My mother called this morning, kept trailing away,
or off, with complaints about her failure
to make it, alone in the house, the night being
long, no one to talk to, blaming, in part, America,
hating the mess we've found, or made this year.
"What is America?" she said. "A hole in the water.
What have we gained but poison and illness?"
Her whole message, a cry, though still she asked
what I would eat for lunch. Back in bed,
I listened awhile to the furnace. Then, dressed,
passed the same books and papers spread on the floor

National Poetry Series winner 2005

Tryfon Tolides

Nicholas Samaras

Nicholas Samaras

April 30, 2009

Reading from his book-in-progress, *Skiathos*.

ALL THE ANGELS ARE DYING

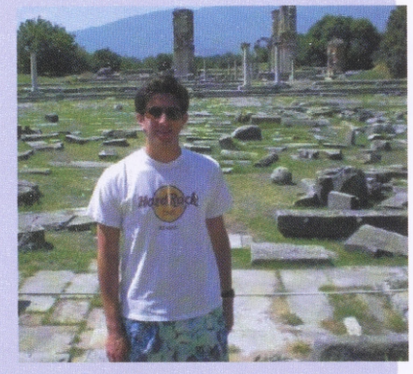
Human, they leave us in the brightest spring,
or on the hinge of a dry season, gone
as late November leaves, fallen wings
wafting groundward. The caesura song
of their departure discords the world. Do
they think of what their deprivation leaves?
This is loss, and what loss denudes:
This life dimmer, that much more grieved
for ourselves. Each of their blank deaths
wearing the faces of our lost fathers.
The darkness was lit by their frosty breaths
and silvery hair. And we stand, survivors,
our hands, emptied of our own lives, imploring
upward, shaping the air like prayerful, absent wings.

*Co-sponsored by the Poetry Center, SFSU

Greek Ministry of Culture Summer Scholarship Winners

Michael Fonti, a Modern Greek Studies' student at SFSU, won the 2007 Greek Ministry of Culture Summer Scholarship and participated in the International Summer School Program for Greek Language, History and Culture at the Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki, Greece and writes of his experience:

When I was offered the chance to spend a month in Greece studying Modern Greek, I immediately knew that I was going to have an experience I would remember for a lifetime. In the best way, this statement came to realization that summer in Peraia, a small town on the outskirts of Thessaloniki, the second biggest city in Greece. My journey that summer began with a few brief days in Athens, where I am lucky enough to have family that I can stay with. After that, I flew to Thessaloniki and made my way to the Xenia Helios Hotel, where the bulk of the program, including the classes, would be held. That first night I began meeting some of the other students with whom I would be taking classes. Out of a total of ninety-five students, I was one of eight Americans. Almost everyone else was European, save for a few students from the Middle East and Korea.



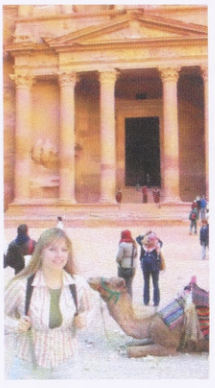
Despite the diversity, making friends was not a problem, and I was never alone. The common language among us was, for the most part, Greek, which was a good thing. It forced us all to practice speaking and, as a result, we became much more confident in our abilities. As the program progressed, Peraia quickly began to feel like a second home. The locals were all kind and welcoming, urging us to speak Greek whenever possible. Waking up for 8 a.m. language classes everyday was not a bother, as my instructor did all he could to make the class interesting and fast-paced.

After our daily Greek class, we had the option of attending lectures on history and culture, which were offered both in English and Greek. After those were over, we would usually have the rest of the day free and could go wherever and do whatever we wanted to. I often used this time to venture into Thessaloniki, go swimming at the beach, and, of course, complete my homework. At the end of every six day school week, the group would go on excursions around Northern Greece via bus.
We visited museums and archaeological sites where the head of the program, Professor Dimadis, would lecture on historical topics.

I was able to see a whole lot more of Greece than I expected to. These trips were fun, albeit a little tiring at times. While I may have appreciated a day of rest or two, I can't say I have any regrets about the scheduling of the trip. Some of my fondest memories of this experience are of the friends I made and all the people I met from around the world. I have lived in the U.S. my entire life and I have never met so many foreigners as I did that month. It was great hearing about other countries first hand and interesting to see what they had to say about the United States. As I write this, it has been over a month since I left Greece and I still find myself reminiscing on my time there. I made some friends that I will never forget, some of whom I am still in contact with. I saw and learned so many new things it is almost hard to believe. I am truly grateful that I was able to participate in the IMXA program.

I am currently a senior pursuing a major in Business Administration with a focus on International Business as well as a minor in Modern Greek Studies at SFSU. This semester I participating in a cross registration program with UC Berkeley, where I am taking a class to finish up my minor. Along with the trip to Greece, the Modern Greek Studies department at SFSU has provided me with amazing opportunities to further my education, and I could not be more thankful!

2008 Maskaleris Scholarship Recipients



Amanda Cookson

Amanda Cookson is a Classics major and a Modern Greek Studies minor at San Francisco State University. Upon receiving the 2008 Maskaleris Scholarship she hopes to plan a summer trip to Greece where she can practice the Modern Greek that she has learned and see the land that is rooted in some of her family history. The upcoming excursion to Greece would be the trip of a lifetime and she cannot completely express her gratitude to the Maskaleris Scholarship Committee for making such a dream a reality.

Anna Fikaris

Anna Fikaris is a Liberal Studies major and a Modern Greek Studies minor at San Francisco State University. Her studies in Modern Greek have enabled her to explore her heritage through multiple aspects including language, literature and cultural history, which have helped her cultivate a deeper understanding of her family's history and strengthened her love of the Greek culture. She especially values the Greek-American Literature course because it required taking part in the oral history project where she interviewed her mother about her experiences as an immigrant in the Greek Diaspora. Anna's experiences in the Modern Greek Studies courses have profoundly influenced her and the amazing lessons she has learned will resonate with her forever. She cannot thank the Maskaleris Scholarship Committee enough for their immense generosity and hopes that the Modern Greek Studies Foundation will continue to flourish in the perpetuation of invaluable knowledge about Hellenic history and culture.

She also won the 2008 Greek Ministry of Culture Summer Scholarship and participated in the International Summer School Program at the Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Graduating Seniors

Three of our students, **Anna Fikaris**, **Rhona Ronquillo** and **Eva Spirakis**, graduated on May 23, 2009 with a minor in Modern Greek Studies. We would like to extend our warmest congratulations on their achievements and wish them every success in the future. A special reception for them on graduation day was held at the Center for Modern Greek Studies.

"The Return of the Three Muses Concert"

Conducted by Tikey Zes and Gus Gundunas
February 10, 2008
Mc Kenna Hall, SFSU

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University presented a gala celebration commemorating the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair at SFSU, "The Return of the Three Muses."

"Gus Gundunas and the Festival Chorus and Orchestra"

Nearly 400 people attended the concert, making the event a memorable cultural and artistic experience within the Bay Area Hellenic community. The program featured splendid musical performances of compositions by contemporary Greek composers, such as **Mikis Theodorakis** and **Manos Hadzidakis**. The artistic vision and musical arrangements provided by musical director, **George Liviakis**, and conductors, **Dr. Tikey Zes** and **Gus Gundunas**, were brilliant. The concert showcased eloquent and talented performances by tenor **Gus Gundunas** and soprano **Susan Gundunas**, accompanied by the sixty-member **Festival Chorus and Orchestra**. Part one of the concert featured a selection of *cantades*, sung by an all-male choir accompanied by mandolins and guitars. This section concluded with a selection of *rembetika* and Greek popular songs. Part two consisted of poetry readings by **Professor Martha Klironomos**, **Director of the CMGS**, and musical selections taken from **Theodorakis'** *Axion Esti* based on the poem by the1979 Nobel Prize-Winning poet, **Odysseas Elytis**. Songs by **Theodorakis** and **Hadzidakis** were also performed as well as a repertoire of classic ballads, "I Fed You Rosewater" ("Σε πότησα ροδόσταμο") and "A Happy Day For Us" ("Ασπρη μέρα και για μας") sung by **Susan Gundunas** and the Chorus. Part three entailed a Cretan medley dedicated to Greek writer **Nikos Kazantzakis**. The medley included a Cretan suite of songs and dances that combined the orchestra, chorus, and the award-winning **Minoan Dancers of Marin, CA**, under the direction of **Vassilis Fourakis**. This section included **Hadzidakis'** "Not Just an Island" ("Δεν ήταν νησί"), the lyrics of which are based on **Kazantzakis'** novel **Freedom or Death**. Introductions and remarks were provided by MC, **Alexia Liviakis-Costouros**, **Patricia Aleck**, past President of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, and **Martha Klironomos**. A reception followed the program, hosted by the **Pan-Cretan Chapters of the San Francisco Bay Area**, **Epimenides**, **Polinaria** and **Ikaros**, and organized by **Chris and Olga Daskalakis**. The **CMGS** wishes to thank all of the performers and musicians who participated in this memorable event as well as all of the sponsors of the reception. A very special thanks to the members of the **MGSF**'s organizing committee, which included **Patricia Aleck**, **Dr. Peter and Susan Haikalis**, **Cleo Lekas**, **George Konstantopoulos**, **Titika Koplos**, **Emeritus Professor Thanasis Maskaleris**, **Kleon Skourtis**, and to student assistant **Melissa Charbonneau**.

Susan Gundunas

Marking the 25th anniversary of the Kazantzakis Chair gives the CMGS the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the generous donors who have contributed to the Kazantzakis endowment fund over the years. Its establishment is owed to the initial substantial gift of $200,000 by **Angelos Tsakopoulos** in 1983. Subsequent donors have included **Eleni Kazantzaki**, the **Barbara James Living Trust**, **George Marcus**, the **MGSF**, the **Greek Ministry of Culture**, the **Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, the **Elios Foundation**, the **Costopoulos Foundation**, the **Oakland AHEPA** chapter, several chapters of the **Pan Cretan Association of America**, the **Roumeliot**, **Messinian**, **Arcadian**, **Argolidian**, **Cephalonian**, **Pan Macedonian**, and the **Cypriots of Northern California** societies, the **Daughters of Penelope**, the **Hellenic Law Society**, the **Hellenic American Professional Society** and numerous individual donors, including alumni of the Modern Greek Studies Program.

San Francisco Greek Film Festivals 2006-2008

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation in cooperation with the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair at San Francisco State University, has hosted three film festivals in 2006, 2007, and 2008 at the Delancey Street Screening Room. The film festivals screened new and independent Greek cinema, shorts and full-length feature films, by such notable directors as Constantine Giannaris (*Hostage*), Maria Iliou (*Alexandria*), Layia Yiourgou (*Liubi*), Christos Epperson (*The 11th Day*) and up- and-coming directors such as Thouly Dosios (*House of Olive Trees*). A number of the films shown were produced by the Athens Film Center in Greece.

To commemorate the 25th year of the founding of the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair endowment, a special screening of *He Who Must Die* (1957) was shown. Based on the novel *The Greek Passion* (*Ο Χριστός Ξανασταυρώνεται*) by Nikos Kazantzakis, the film was directed by Jules Dassin and starred Jean Servais, Carl Mohner, and Melina Mercouri.

The Center wishes to thank Kleon Skourtis, Maria Nicolacakis and the members of the Greek Film Festival committees for all of their efforts in organizing these very popular events. A special thanks to all of the donors who helped underwrite the festival and to the numerous volunteers who gave their time.

2006 Film Festival

2006 Film Festival Committee

Kleon Skourtis, Chair
Maria Nicolacakis, Co-chair

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Thanks to all the volunteers

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If we have not acknowledged everyone, please accept our apologies.

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Our current course offerings, guest lecture schedule, and other information about the Center for Modern Greek Studies can be found on our website: ***http://www.sfsu.edu/~modgreek***

Photo: Ismini Ioannou, Teaching Associate, and the Modern Greek II class, Spring 2009

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